

Message Text

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44

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 A-01

SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 PER-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 PM-04 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 IO-13 PPT-01 /071 W

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O 071535Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1889

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 2395

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, GJ

SUBJ: EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION: GRENADA

REF: BRIDGETOWN 2393

1. REFTEL INFORMS DEPARTMENT OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION NOW
PREVAILING IN GRENADA.

2. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CONSIDERATION MUST BE GIVEN AT THIS
TIME TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT, SHOULD CONDITIONS DETERIORATE
QUICKLY IN GRENADA AS A RESULT OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS BEING
HELD DECEMBER 7, IT MAY BECOME NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE
E&E PLAN FOR THAT ISLAND. WITH THIS IN MIND, DEPT
IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH DOD AND ASK THAT THE NAVY DEPARTMENT
BE ADVISED THAT ASSISTANCE MAY BE REQUIRED AT VERY SHORT
NOTICE. OUR THINKING IS THAT IT MIGHT WELL BE
ADVISABLE TO HAVE A NAVAL VESSEL PREPARED TO PROCEED AT
ANY TIME WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO GRENADA TO ASSIST IN
THE EVACUATION OF US CITS AND FAMILIES. WE ESTIMATE THERE
MAY BE ABOUT 200 US CITS WHO MAY NEED TO BE EVACUATED
FROM THE ISLAND. IF ASSISTANCE IS TO BE EXTENDED TO
BRITISH, CANADIAN AND OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS, THE NUMBER
COULD BE MUCH HIGHER.

3. DEPARTMENT MIGHT ALSO WISH TO ASK US NAVAL AUTHORITIES
IF THEY KNOW OF ANY BRITISH OR CANADIAN NAVAL SHIPS IN AREA
WHOSE POSITION WOULD PERMIT ARRIVAL IN GRENADA AHEAD
OF US SHIP OR WHICH WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST IF SITUATION
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DEVELOPS REQUIRING EVACUATION.

4. AIR EVACUATION PROBABLY IMPRACTICAL IN VIEW OF STRONG POSSIBILITY THAT PEARLS AIRPORT, SOLE AIRPORT IN THE COUNTRY, LIKELY TO BE BLOCKED TO AIR TRAFFIC AND ACCESS ROADS TO IT WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE INACCESSIBLE.

5. EMBASSY IS ALSO CONSIDERING ISSUING A WARNING TO AMERICAN CITIZENS NOT TO TRAVEL TO GRENADA AT THIS TIME. PLEASE ADVISE.
SIMMS

NOTE BY OC/T: BRIDGETOWN 2393 NOT YET RECEIVED.

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NNN

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